

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

March 28, 2022

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Schweller called the Regular Meeting of the Bellbrook City Council to order at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Schweller led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mrs. Katherine Cyphers

Mr. Forrest Greenwood

Mr. Brady Harding

Mr. Ernie Havens

Mr. T.J. Hoke

Mrs. Elaine Middlestetter

Mayor Mike Schweller

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had comments or corrections to the minutes of the March 14, 2022 meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were declared to be approved.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL GUEST

Chief Carmin provided comments and an introduction as the City's new Police Chief.

Sugarcreek Township Trustee Carolyn Destefani made a presentation to discuss the township's desire and work thus far to construct a Veterans Memorial.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-R-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE GREENE COUNTY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT (Middlestetter)

Mr. Schommer noted the attached designs and cost estimates for the projects associated with the Streetscape Study. He explained the City's desire to apply to the Greene County Board of County Commissioner's Community Investment Grant for \$100,000 to cover half of the cost to construct one of the projects associated to the Streetscape Study.

A motion to approve Resolution 2022-R-11.

Motion made by Mrs. Middlestetter, Seconded by Mr. Hoke.

Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schommer provided an update on the recent technology updates and gave on-screen demonstration and explanation of a new online permitting system. The system allows entry of the permits, checking of status and ability to report code enforcement issues through the website or mobile.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Greenwood noted there is a burn ban through May due to the windy conditions. This ban is for open burns, not for small controlled recreational fires.

Mr. Harding noted to be watchful for the annual Nerf wars by high school students making sure to be aware of kids going through neighborhoods.

SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Greenwood noted the gas pipeline replacement project is moving along and seems to be without incident.

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Cyphers stated she attended the County CIC meeting and plans to set up a Finance Committee meeting in April.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Middlestetter reported the committee met and discussed the two applicants for the Planning Board vacancy. She noted both applicants were offered an interview or to be directly considered since each applicant had recently been interviewed and interacting with Council.

Motion to appoint Dr. Dave VanVeldhuizen to the planning Board.

Motion made by Mrs. Middlestetter, Seconded by Mr. Havens.

Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and review of amendments to Council Rules.

Mr. Schommer noted the last discussion focused on modifying the citizen comment and arrangement of the agenda. He noted there has been a proposed process created and presented it for discussion.

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Mr. Havens asked if a citizen registered to speak on an agenda item would that preclude them from speaking about an open topic. Mr. Schommer clarified the portion where citizens register for agenda items is noted to allow discussion at the time of that topic to have their input heard prior to a decision.

Mr. Cyphers asked if having citizens registered to speak and the section for public hearing of ordinances, a resident would have three opportunities to speak. She noted it may be best to move public comment to after committee reports so audience members could provide additional feedback at the end of the meeting if it does not relate to a specific agenda item. Mr. Schommer noted the intention was to allow citizens to provide comments prior to council deliberation and a decision, and moving it to the end would place comments after a decision was made.

It was also noted the purpose was to avoid having citizens sit through the entire meeting for general comments. Mr. Schommer also noted the citizens registered to speak on agenda items is merely a placeholder to announce there are registered speakers to make note when the agenda item is discussed they wish to speak. The comments were clarified and members noted it makes sense.

Mayor Schweller noted there will need to be a resolution, and any final comments and review should be done prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Havens noted regarding electronic voting, we should try it before changes the rules. It was noted prior to trying, it would need to be authorized to do.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Harding commented the house on 725 at the West end of the City is doing a great job on their renovation and it looks great.

Mr. Havens noted he spent time with the group conducting interviews for a recommendation for appointment on the Parks Board. He added he appreciated everyone's interest in the position.

Motion to recommend to the Common Pleas Court through a letter to appoint Steven Haller to the Park Board.

Motion made by Mr. Havens, Seconded by Mr. Hoke.

Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller

Mr. Hoke wanted to welcome Chief Carmin and was happy to see representation from the Township and the Parks at the meeting.

Mr. Greenwood thanked Carolyn Destefani for bringing the veterans memorial presentation to Council. He also appreciated the Veterans Town Hall organized by Mayor Schweller and noted the VA provides a lot of services and any veteran needing assistance should call.

Mr. Jeff Stewart from the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District thanked the City for providing representation to help in the recommendation for appointment of a new Commissioner. He also noted

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he was not intending on putting anyone on the spot, but going through the process, comments were made that the parks does not need any additional park land. He noted it was a departure from the mission of the agency, and new land is acquired through grants that take a lot of work and time. He noted if the City was stating it was happy with the parkland within the city limits, then they could focus their efforts on Sugarcreek Township and direct their energies there. He didn't know if it was a majority position of the city or just one, and asked if the city would create an official position so they have guidance and would know what to do and how they should spend their resources as far as preservation.

The Mayor stated he is not aware of that being the position of the City and was surprised by that comment.

Mr. Schommer stated he could give some insight to the comment, as he was there. He noted one of the candidates was asked directly about having a specific dollar amount, what was their priorities. The candidate indicated half of the amount would be given to additional land acquisition. The comments were specific to get insight from a single candidate, and the comment referred by Mr. Stewart was taken out of context, noting he was not sure of what was discussed by others after the interviews were done. Mr. Stewart stated Mr. Havens noted during the interview this community does not need any additional parkland. It was again noted that comments were made during the interview of a single candidate for context of that interview. The comment was not a position of the City and thinking so is taking questions and comments of an interview candidate out of context.

Mr. Stewart also asked about a rumor he heard about a D.O.R.A. Mayor Schweller stated there is not one. Mr. Schommer noted he and Mr. Stewart had a discussion about a process that would allow people to enjoy an event in the park and bring alcoholic beverages, not a DORA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter executive session to consider the investigation of a public employee.

Motion made by Mrs. Middlestetter, Seconded by Mr. Havens.

Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller

Council went into Executive Session at 8:46pm.

Motion to exit Executive Session.

Motion made by Mr. Havens, Seconded by Mrs. Cyphers.

Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller

Council exited Executive Session at 9:43pm

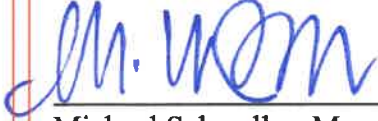
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ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Schweller", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Schweller, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Schommer", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council